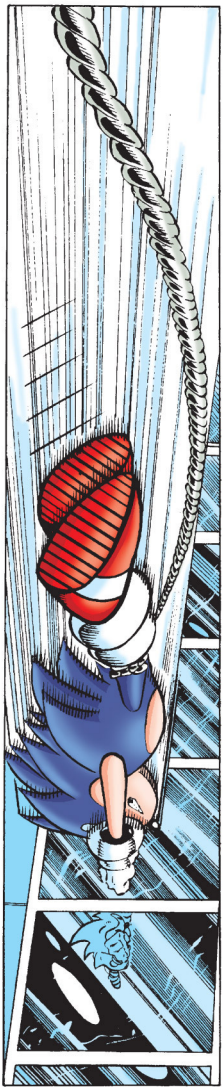
Archie
ADVENTURE SERIES
NO.41 DEC.
$1.50
SONIC
THE HEDGEHOG™
ANTI-SPAZ HARÓ

CLICK!
SNAP!

...and one shall save him!

Part I



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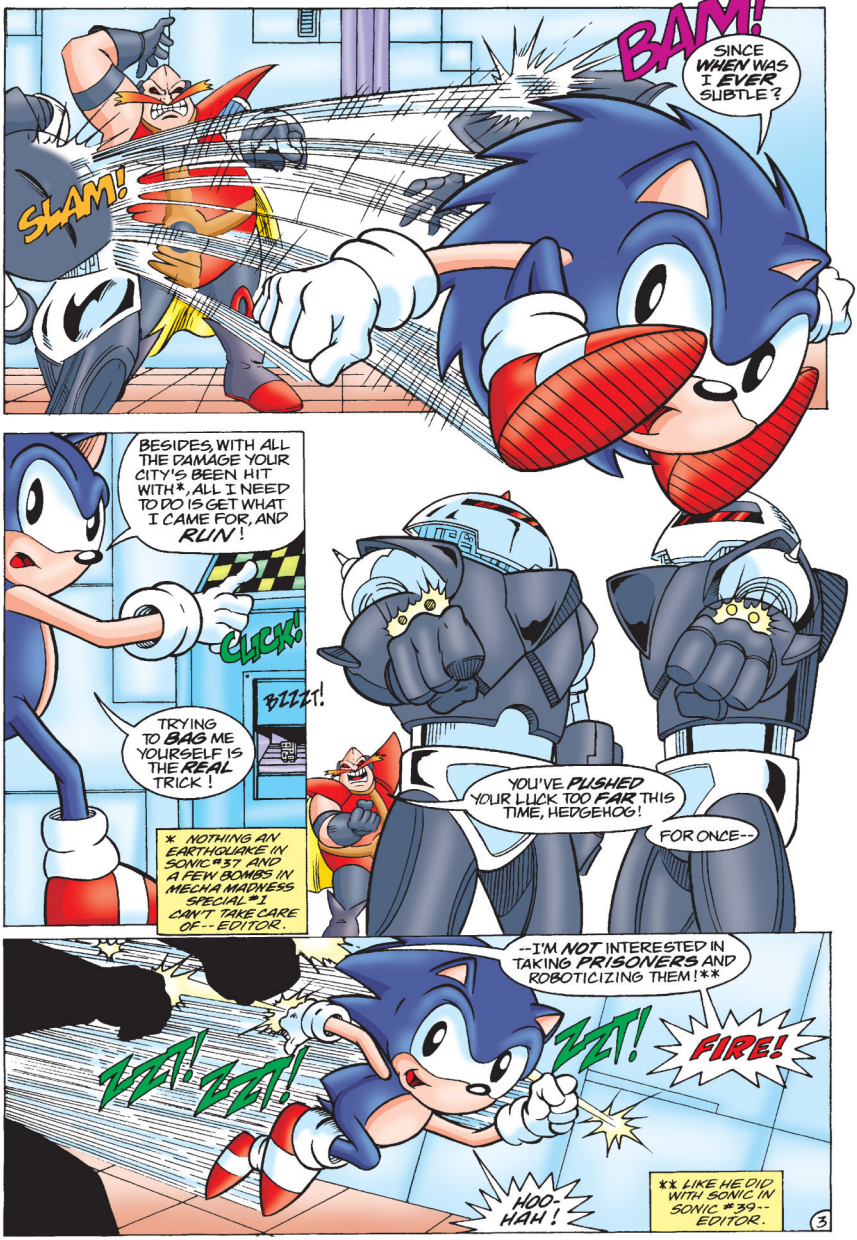
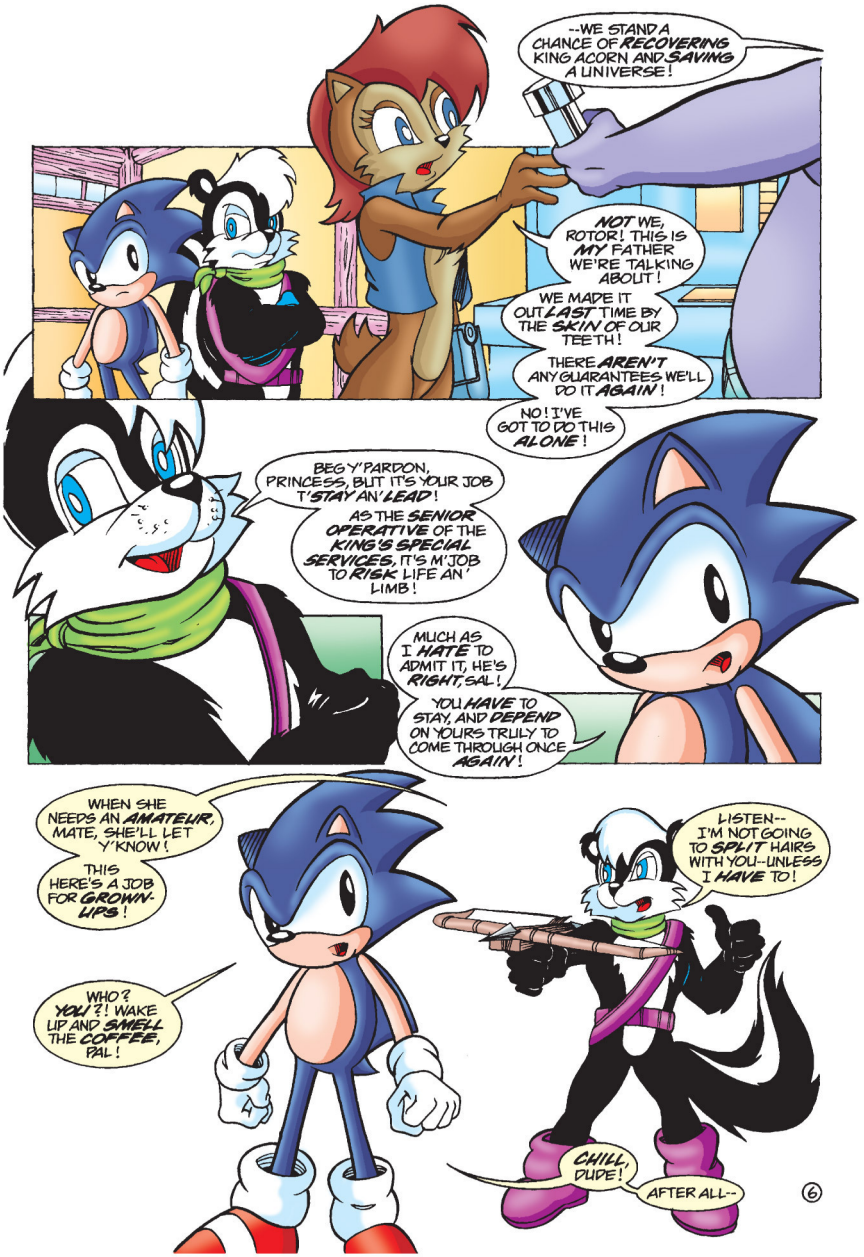
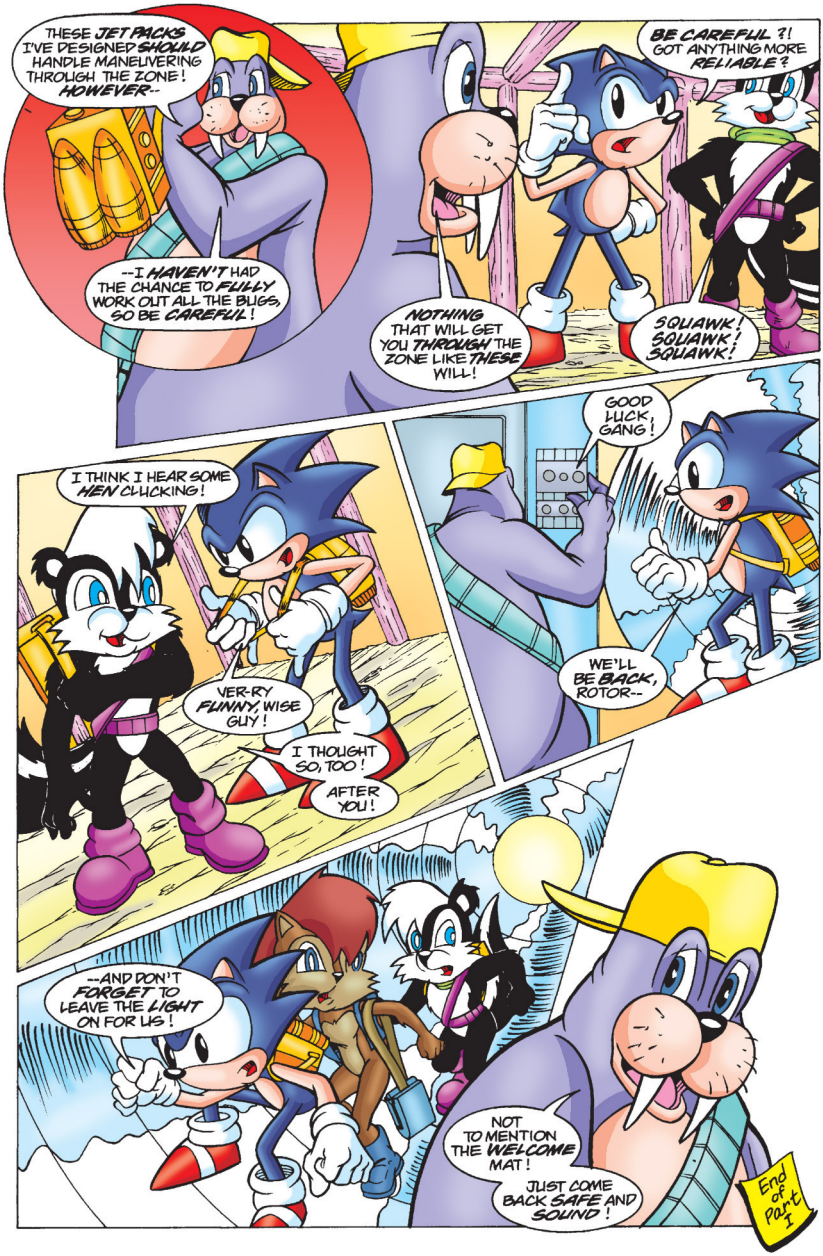

BAM!
SINCE WHEN WAS I EVER SUBTLE?
SLAM!
BESIDES, WITH ALL THE DAMAGE YOUR CITY'S BEEN HIT WITH*, ALL I NEED TO DO IS GET WHAT I CAME FOR, AND RUN!
CLICK!
BZZZT!
TRYING TO BAG ME YOURSELF IS THE REAL TRICK!
* NOTHING AN EARTHQUAKE IN SONIC #37 AND A FEW BOMBS IN MECHA MADNESS SPECIAL #1 CAN'T TAKE CARE OF-- EDITOR.
YOU'VE PUSHED YOUR LUCK TOO FAR THIS TIME, HEDGEHOG!
FOR ONCE--
--I'M NOT INTERESTED IN TAKING PRISONERS AND ROBOTICIZING THEM!**
ZZT!
ZZT!
ZZT!
FIRE!
HOO-HAH!
** LIKE HE DID WITH SONIC IN SONIC #39-- EDITOR.

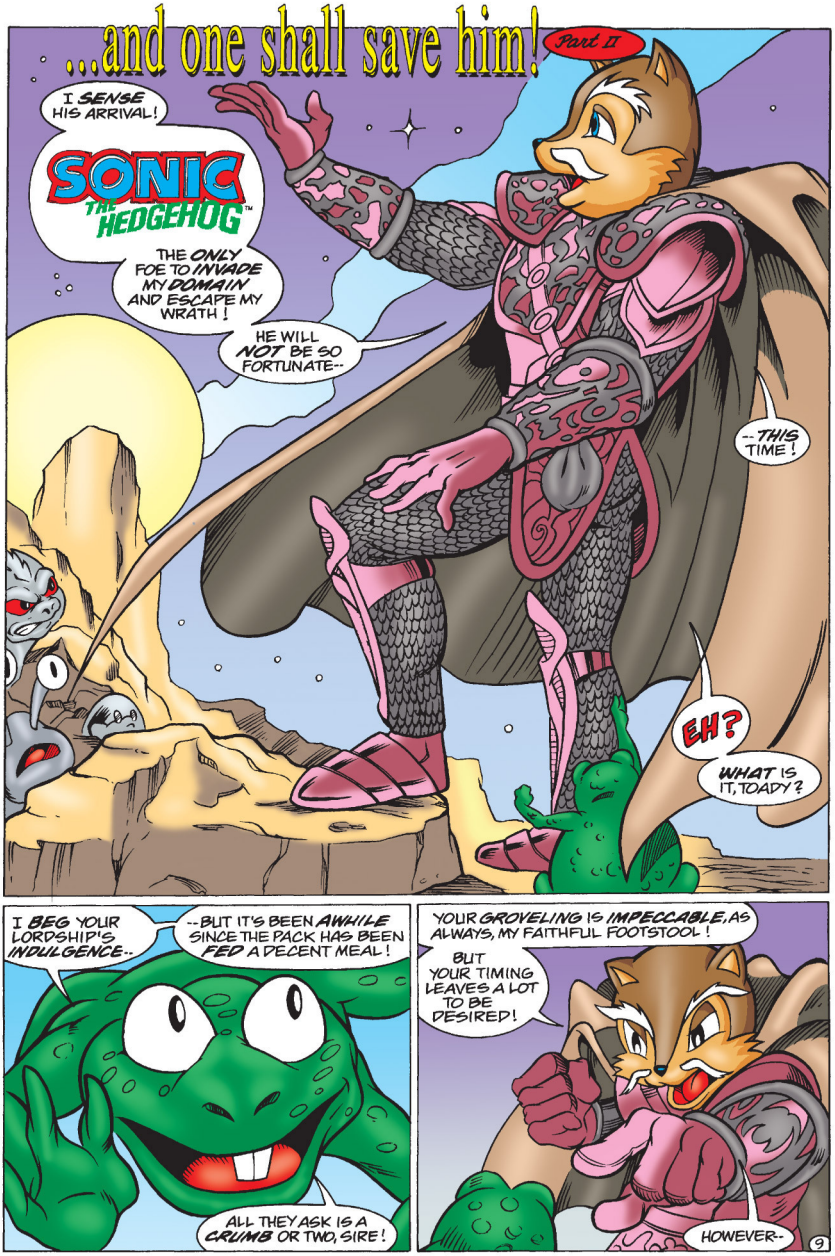
ZAP!
ZAP!
YOU SNOOZE, YOU LOSE!
I GOT WHAT I CAME FOR!
MY COMPLIMENTS ON THE HOSPITALITY!
HASTA LA VISTA, DOC!
ZOOOOOM
OOOOOH...
HOW I REALLY HATE THAT HEDGEHOG!
I'D BETTER POUR ON THE JUICE--
--BEFORE TIME'LL RUN OUT FOR EVERYONE!
KROOOOM!
SONIC!
I TAKE IT YOU WERE SUCCESSFUL!
WELL, IF HE WASN'T, LUV--
4

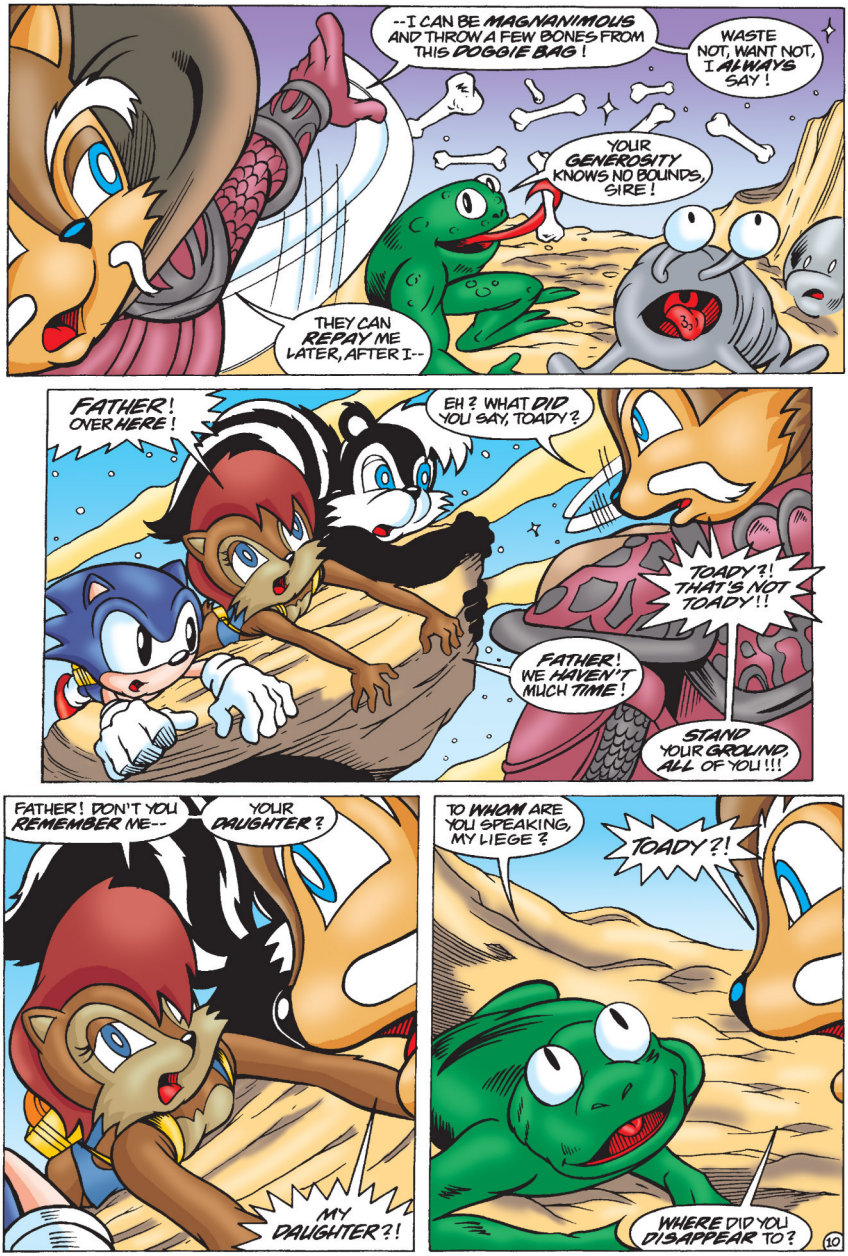
--THERE'S STILL ONE BLOKE YOU CAN DEPEND ON!
IN YOUR DREAMS, CLYDE!
THIS HEDGEHOG TAKES A BACK SEAT TO NOBODY!
STOP IT!
STOP IT, BOTH OF YOU!
YOU'RE LIKE BOYS WITH TOYS!
THIS ISN'T TIME FOR FUN AND GAMES!
TRUER WORDS WERE NEVER SPOKEN, PRINCESS!
IN FACT, IT'S EVEN WORSE THAN I FEARED!
I THOUGHT WE STOPPED THE ZONE OF SILENCE FROM COLLAPSING LAST TIME--*
*SEE SONIC #36, "HEART OF DARKNESS"--EDITOR.
--GIVING US A CHANCE TO RETHINK HOW TO RETRIEVE KING ACORN!
USING THIS COMPONENT SONIC LIBERATED FROM ROBOTNIK--
-- WE HAVE THE MISSING PIECE NECESSARY TO MAKE THE NEUTRALIZER WORK!
WITH IT--
5

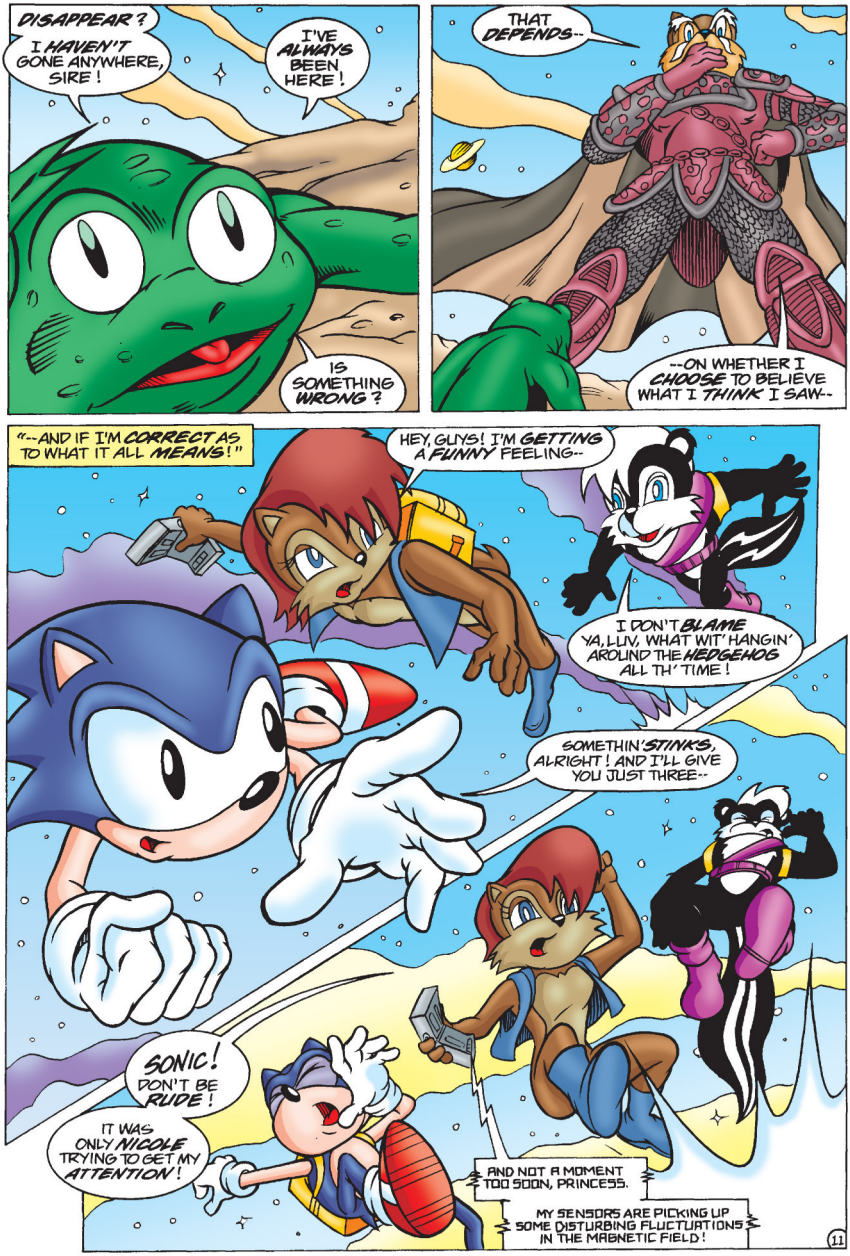

--WE STAND A CHANCE OF RECOVERING KING ACORN AND SAVING A UNIVERSE!
NOT WE, ROTOR! THIS IS MY FATHER WE'RE TALKING ABOUT!
WE MADE IT OUT LAST TIME BY THE SKIN OF OUR TEETH!
THERE AREN'T ANY GUARANTEES WE'LL DO IT AGAIN!
NO! I'VE GOT TO DO THIS ALONE!
BEG Y'PARDON, PRINCESS, BUT IT'S YOUR JOB T'STAY AN' LEAD!
AS THE SENIOR OPERATIVE OF THE KING'S SPECIAL SERVICES, IT'S M'JOB TO RISK LIFE AN' LIMB!
MUCH AS I HATE TO ADMIT IT, HE'S RIGHT, SAL!
YOU HAVE TO STAY, AND DEPEND ON YOURS TRULY TO COME THROUGH ONCE AGAIN!
WHEN SHE NEEDS AN AMATEUR, MATE, SHE'LL LET Y'KNOW!
THIS HERE'S A JOB FOR GROWN-UPS!
WHO? YOU?! WAKE UP AND SMELL THE COFFEE, PAL!
LISTEN-- I'M NOT GOING TO SPLIT HAIRS WITH YOU--UNLESS I HAVE TO!
CHILL, DUDE!
AFTER ALL--
6

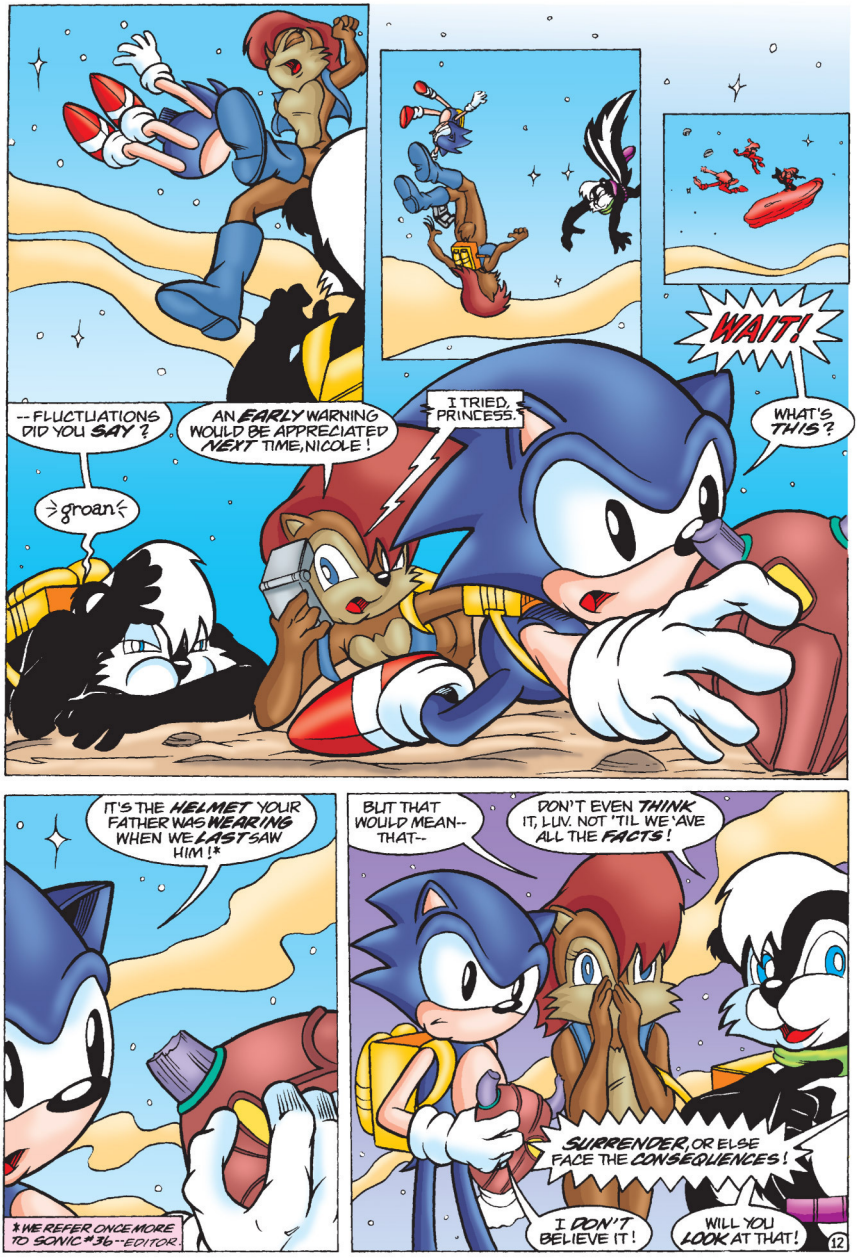
--IF THERE'S ANY SPLITTING TO BE DONE--
--IT'LL BE THE SPLIT-SECOND TIMING BY THE HEDGEHOG--
--DELIVERING A SPLITTING HEADACHE TO THE SKUNK!
HAVE A MIGRAINE ON ME, PAL!
THAT'S YOUR BEST SHOT, MATE?!
I'VE BEEN HIT BY PILLOWS THAT WERE HARDER!
KER-POWIE
BASH!
ZOWIE!
OOMPH!
OUCH!
THIS ISN'T GETTING US ANYWHERE, GUYS!
YOU CAN SETTLE THIS LATER! RIGHT NOW WE HAVE A JOB TO DO!
OPEN THE PORTAL, ROTOR!
THIS ISN'T OVER YET--NOT BY A LONG SHOT!
ANYTIME AND ANYWHERE, MATE!
ONE MORE THING--

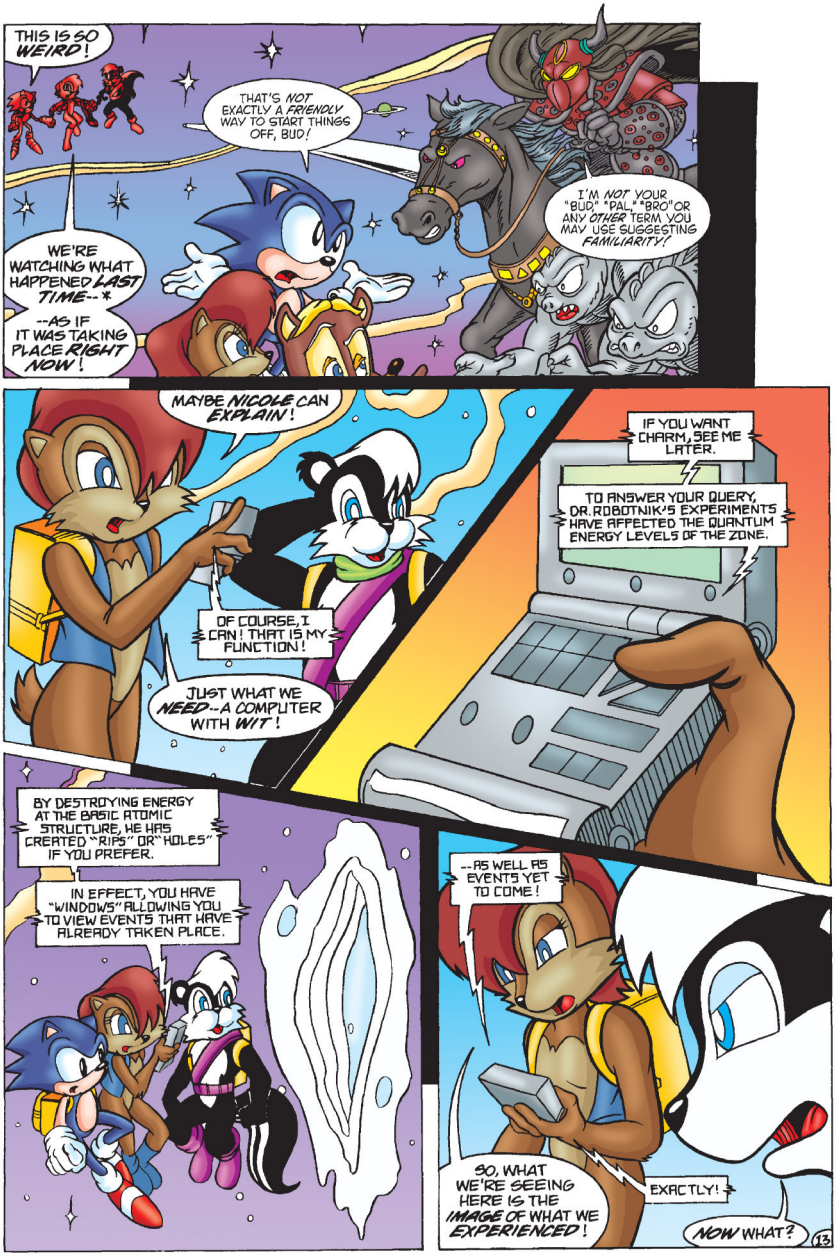

THESE JET PACKS I'VE DESIGNED SHOULD HANDLE MANEUVERING THROUGH THE ZONE! HOWEVER--
--I HAVEN'T HAD THE CHANCE TO FULLY WORK OUT ALL THE BUGS, SO BE CAREFUL!
NOTHING THAT WILL GET YOU THROUGH THE ZONE LIKE THESE WILL!
BE CAREFUL?! GOT ANYTHING MORE RELIABLE?
SQUAWK! SQUAWK! SQUAWK!
GOOD LUCK, GANG!
WE'LL BE BACK, ROTOR--
I THINK I HEAR SOME HEN CLUCKING!
VER-RY FUNNY, WISE GUY!
I THOUGHT SO, TOO!
AFTER YOU!
--AND DON'T FORGET TO LEAVE THE LIGHT ON FOR US!
NOT TO MENTION THE WELCOME MAT!
JUST COME BACK SAFE AND SOUND!
End of Part I


...and one shall save him!
Part II
SONIC THE HEDGEHOG
I SENSE HIS ARRIVAL!
THE ONLY FOE TO INVADE MY DOMAIN AND ESCAPE MY WRATH!
HE WILL NOT BE SO FORTUNATE--
--THIS TIME!
EH?
WHAT IS IT, TOADY?
I BEG YOUR LORDSHIP'S INDULGENCE--
--BUT IT'S BEEN AWHILE SINCE THE PACK HAS BEEN FED A DECENT MEAL!
ALL THEY ASK IS A CRUMB OR TWO, SIRE!
YOUR GROVELING IS IMPECCABLE, AS ALWAYS, MY FAITHFUL FOOTSTOOL!
BUT YOUR TIMING LEAVES A LOT TO BE DESIRED!
HOWEVER--


--I CAN BE MAGNANIMOUS AND THROW A FEW BONES FROM THIS DOGGIE BAG!
WASTE NOT, WANT NOT, I ALWAYS SAY!
YOUR GENEROSITY KNOWS NO BOUNDS, SIRE!
THEY CAN REPAY ME LATER, AFTER I--
FATHER! OVER HERE!
EH? WHAT DID YOU SAY, TOADY?
TOADY?! THAT'S NOT TOADY!!
FATHER! WE HAVEN'T MUCH TIME!
STAND YOUR GROUND, ALL OF YOU!!!
FATHER! DON'T YOU REMEMBER ME--
YOUR DAUGHTER?
MY DAUGHTER?!
TO WHOM ARE YOU SPEAKING, MY LIEGE?
TOADY?!
WHERE DID YOU DISAPPEAR TO?
10


DISAPPEAR?
I HAVEN'T GONE ANYWHERE, SIRE!
I'VE ALWAYS BEEN HERE!
IS SOMETHING WRONG?
THAT DEPENDS--
--ON WHETHER I CHOOSE TO BELIEVE WHAT I THINK I SAW--
"--AND IF I'M CORRECT AS TO WHAT IT ALL MEANS!"
HEY, GUYS! I'M GETTING A FUNNY FEELING--
I DON'T BLAME YA, LUV, WHAT WIT' HANGIN' AROUND THE HEDGEHOG ALL TH' TIME!
SOMETHIN' STINKS, ALRIGHT! AND I'LL GIVE YOU JUST THREE--
SONIC! DON'T BE RUDE!
IT WAS ONLY NICOLE TRYING TO GET MY ATTENTION!
AND NOT A MOMENT TOO SOON, PRINCESS.
MY SENSORS ARE PICKING UP SOME DISTURBING FLUCTUATIONS IN THE MAGNETIC FIELD!


WAIT!
WHAT'S THIS?
I TRIED, PRINCESS.
AN EARLY WARNING WOULD BE APPRECIATED NEXT TIME, NICOLE!
--FLUCTUATIONS DID YOU SAY?
>groan<
IT'S THE HELMET YOUR FATHER WAS WEARING WHEN WE LAST SAW HIM!*
*WE REFER ONCE MORE TO SONIC #36--EDITOR.
BUT THAT WOULD MEAN--THAT--
DON'T EVEN THINK IT, LUV. NOT 'TIL WE 'AVE ALL THE FACTS!
SURRENDER, OR ELSE FACE THE CONSEQUENCES!
I DON'T BELIEVE IT!
WILL YOU LOOK AT THAT!


THIS IS SO WEIRD!
THAT'S NOT EXACTLY A FRIENDLY WAY TO START THINGS OFF, BUD!
I'M NOT YOUR "BUD," "PAL," "BRO" OR ANY OTHER TERM YOU MAY USE SUGGESTING FAMILIARITY!
WE'RE WATCHING WHAT HAPPENED LAST TIME--*
--AS IF IT WAS TAKING PLACE RIGHT NOW!
MAYBE NICOLE CAN EXPLAIN!
IF YOU WANT CHARM, SEE ME LATER.
TO ANSWER YOUR QUERY, DR. ROBOTNIK'S EXPERIMENTS HAVE AFFECTED THE QUANTUM ENERGY LEVELS OF THE ZONE.
OF COURSE, I CAN! THAT IS MY FUNCTION!
JUST WHAT WE NEED--A COMPUTER WITH WIT!
BY DESTROYING ENERGY AT THE BASIC ATOMIC STRUCTURE, HE HAS CREATED "RIPS" OR "HOLES" IF YOU PREFER.
IN EFFECT, YOU HAVE "WINDOWS" ALLOWING YOU TO VIEW EVENTS THAT HAVE ALREADY TAKEN PLACE.
--AS WELL AS EVENTS YET TO COME!
SO, WHAT WE'RE SEEING HERE IS THE IMAGE OF WHAT WE EXPERIENCED!
EXACTLY!
NOW WHAT?
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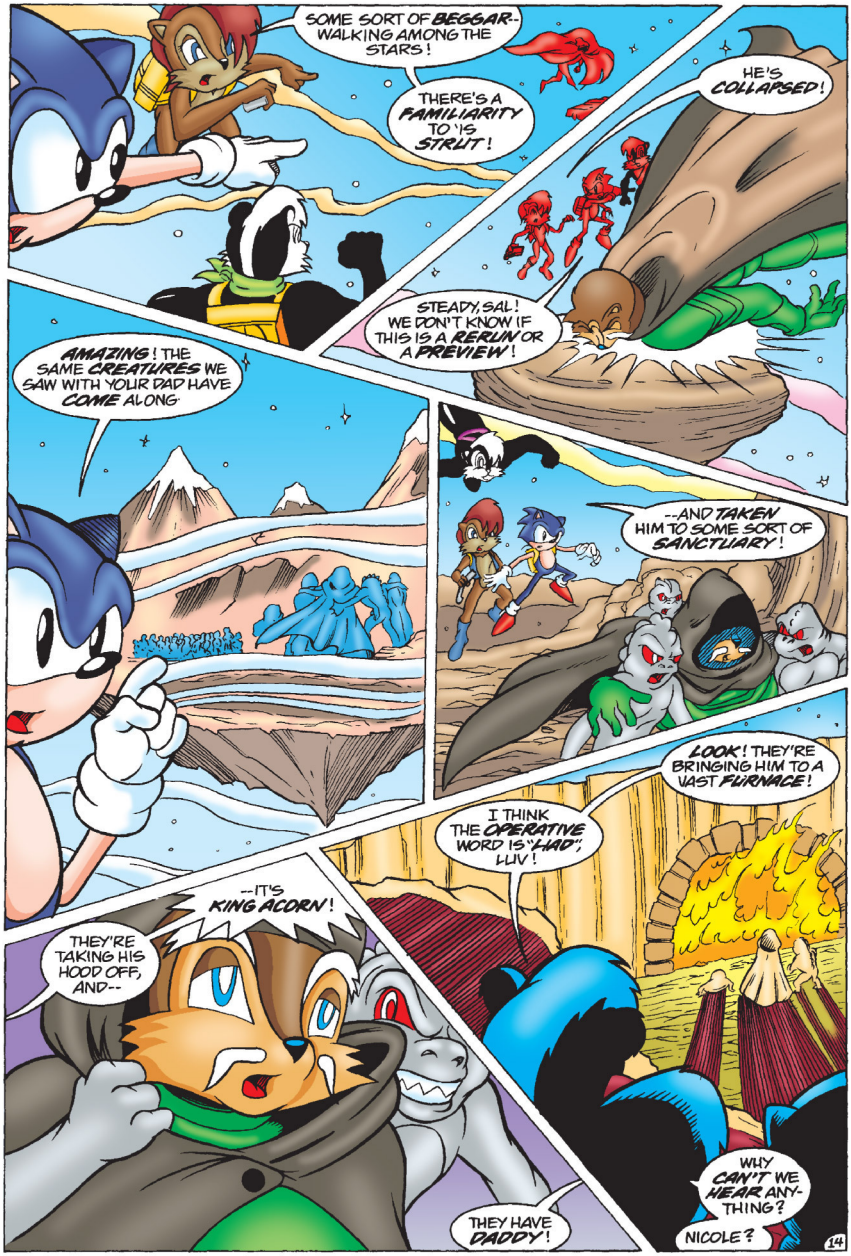
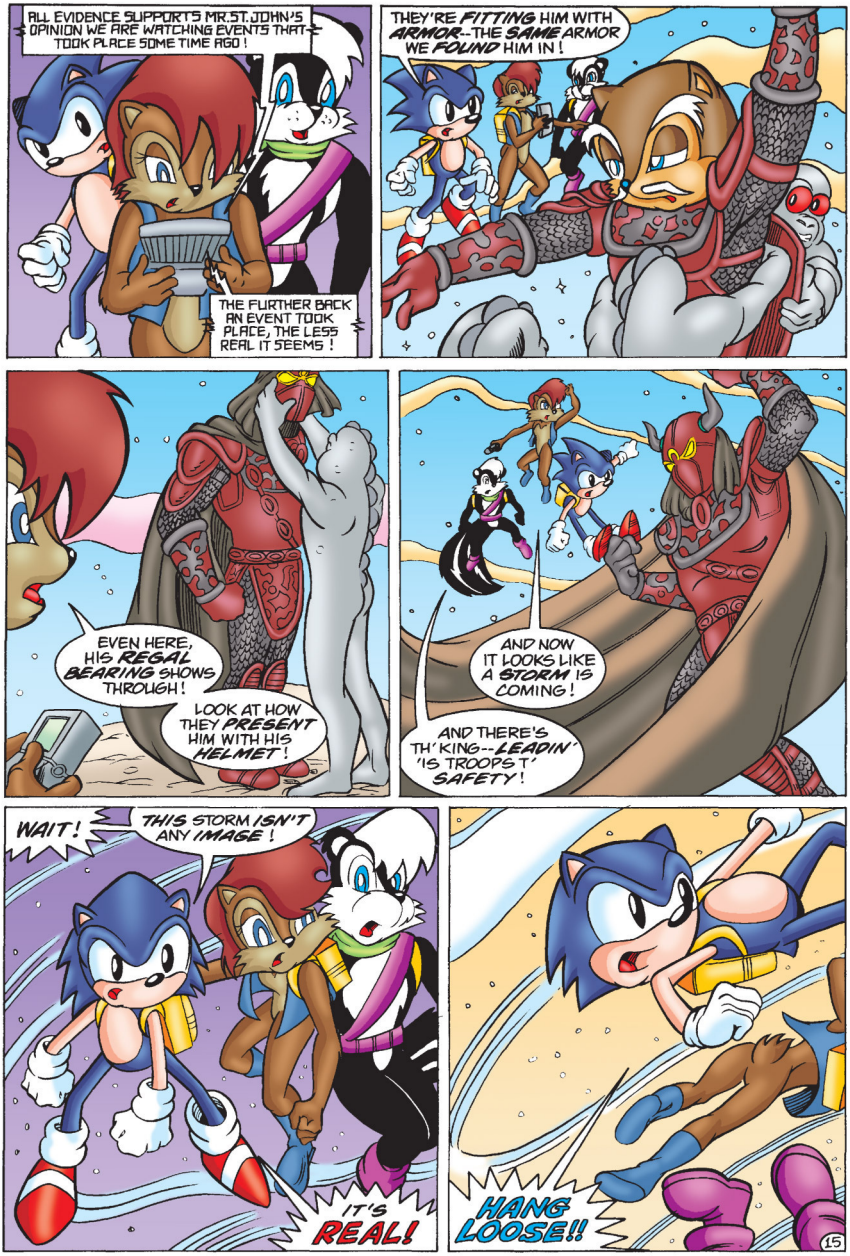
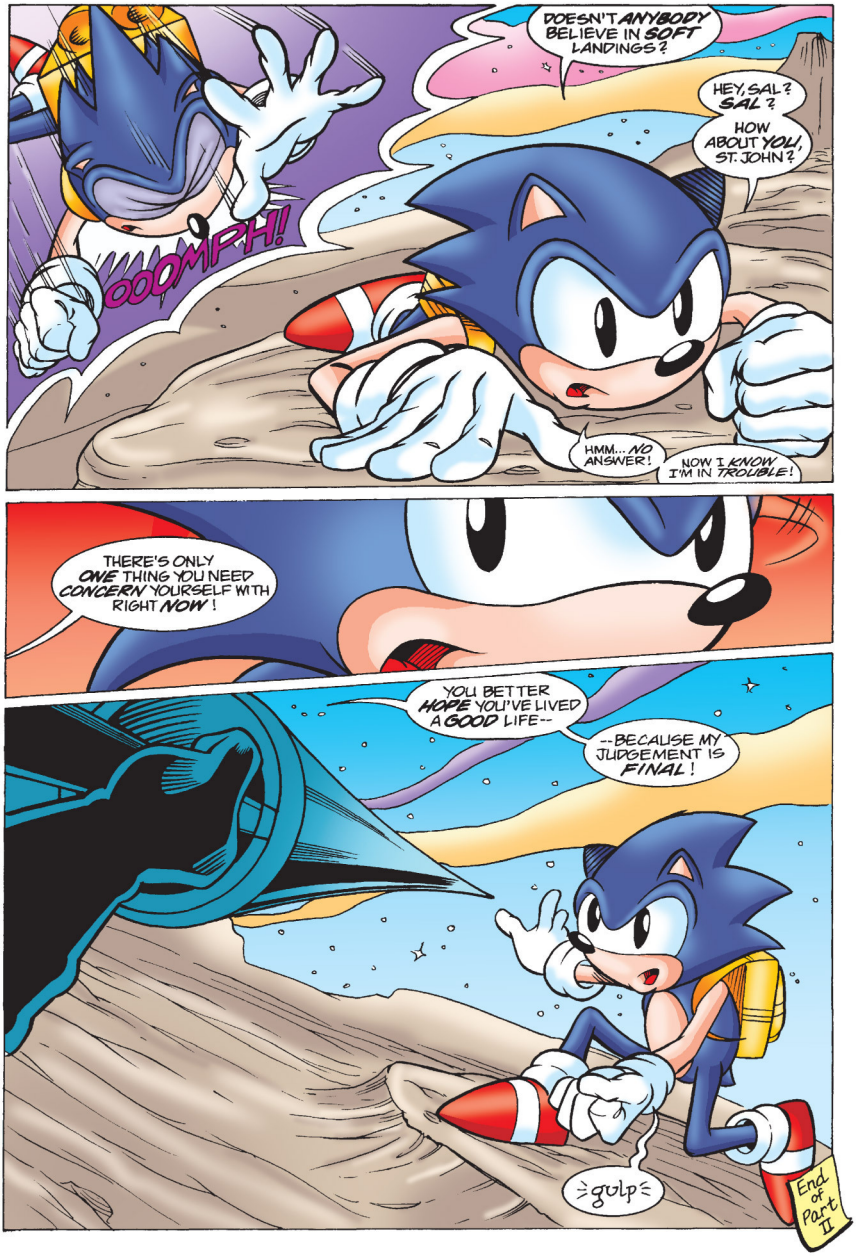
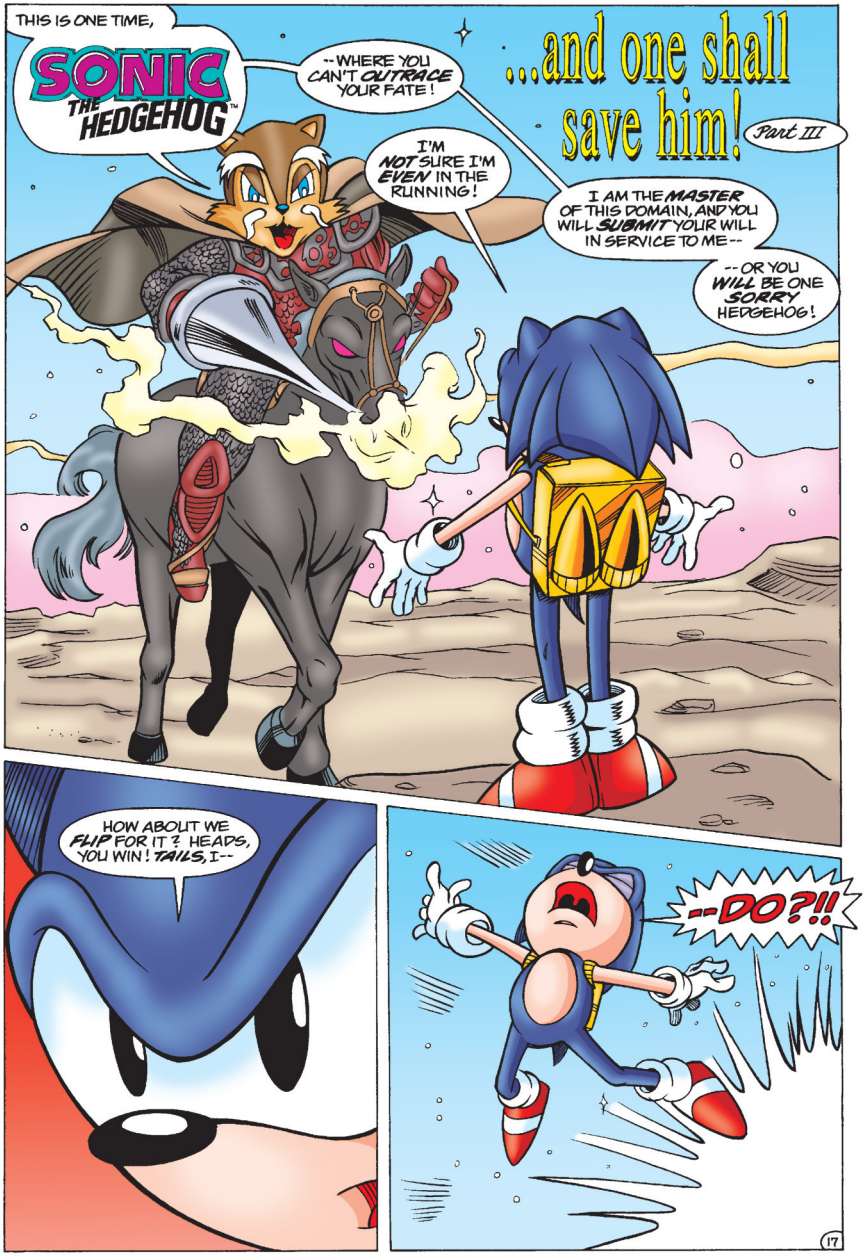

SOME SORT OF BEGGAR--WALKING AMONG THE STARS!
THERE'S A FAMILIARITY TO 'IS STRUT!
HE'S COLLAPSED!
STEADY, SAL! WE DON'T KNOW IF THIS IS A RERUN OR A PREVIEW!
AMAZING! THE SAME CREATURES WE SAW WITH YOUR DAD HAVE COME ALONG.
--AND TAKEN HIM TO SOME SORT OF SANCTUARY!
LOOK! THEY'RE BRINGING HIM TO A VAST FURNACE!
I THINK THE OPERATIVE WORD IS "HAD", LUV!
--IT'S KING ACORN!
THEY'RE TAKING HIS HOOD OFF, AND--
WHY CAN'T WE HEAR ANY-THING?
NICOLE?
THEY HAVE DADDY!


ALL EVIDENCE SUPPORTS MR. ST. JOHN'S OPINION WE ARE WATCHING EVENTS THAT TOOK PLACE SOME TIME AGO!
THE FURTHER BACK AN EVENT TOOK PLACE, THE LESS REAL IT SEEMS!
THEY'RE FITTING HIM WITH ARMOR--THE SAME ARMOR WE FOUND HIM IN!
EVEN HERE, HIS REGAL BEARING SHOWS THROUGH!
LOOK AT HOW THEY PRESENT HIM WITH HIS HELMET!
AND NOW IT LOOKS LIKE A STORM IS COMING!
AND THERE'S TH' KING--LEADIN' 'IS TROOPS T' SAFETY!
WAIT!
THIS STORM ISN'T ANY IMAGE!
IT'S REAL!
HANG LOOSE!!


OOOMPH!
DOESN'T ANYBODY BELIEVE IN SOFT LANDINGS?
HEY, SAL? SAL?
HOW ABOUT YOU, ST. JOHN?
HMM... NO ANSWER!
NOW I KNOW I'M IN TROUBLE!
THERE'S ONLY ONE THING YOU NEED CONCERN YOURSELF WITH RIGHT NOW!
YOU BETTER HOPE YOU'VE LIVED A GOOD LIFE--
--BECAUSE MY JUDGEMENT IS FINAL!
=gulp=
End of Part II


THIS IS ONE TIME,
SONIC THE HEDGEHOG™
...and one shall save him!
Part III
--WHERE YOU CAN'T OUTRACE YOUR FATE!
I'M NOT SURE I'M EVEN IN THE RUNNING!
I AM THE MASTER OF THIS DOMAIN, AND YOU WILL SUBMIT YOUR WILL IN SERVICE TO ME--
--OR YOU WILL BE ONE SORRY HEDGEHOG!
HOW ABOUT WE FLIP FOR IT? HEADS, YOU WIN! TAILS, I--
--DO?!!
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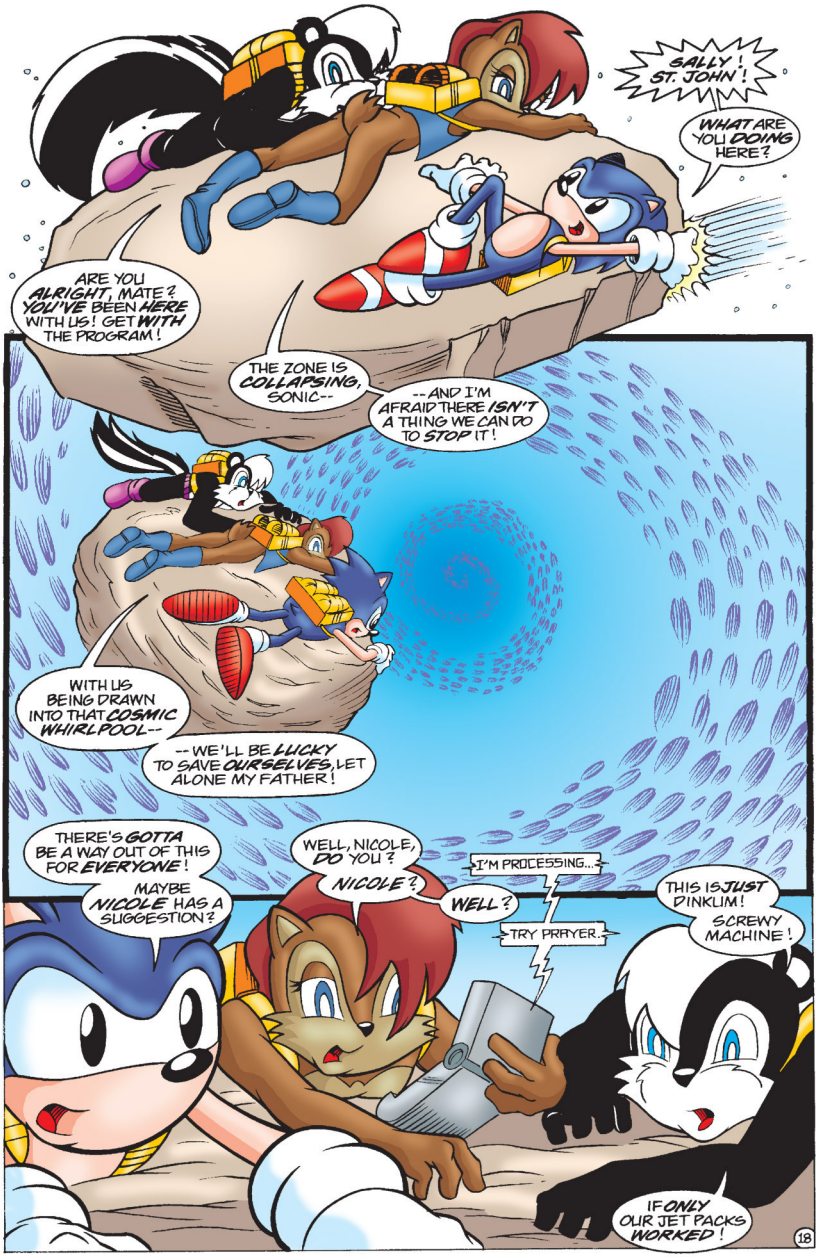
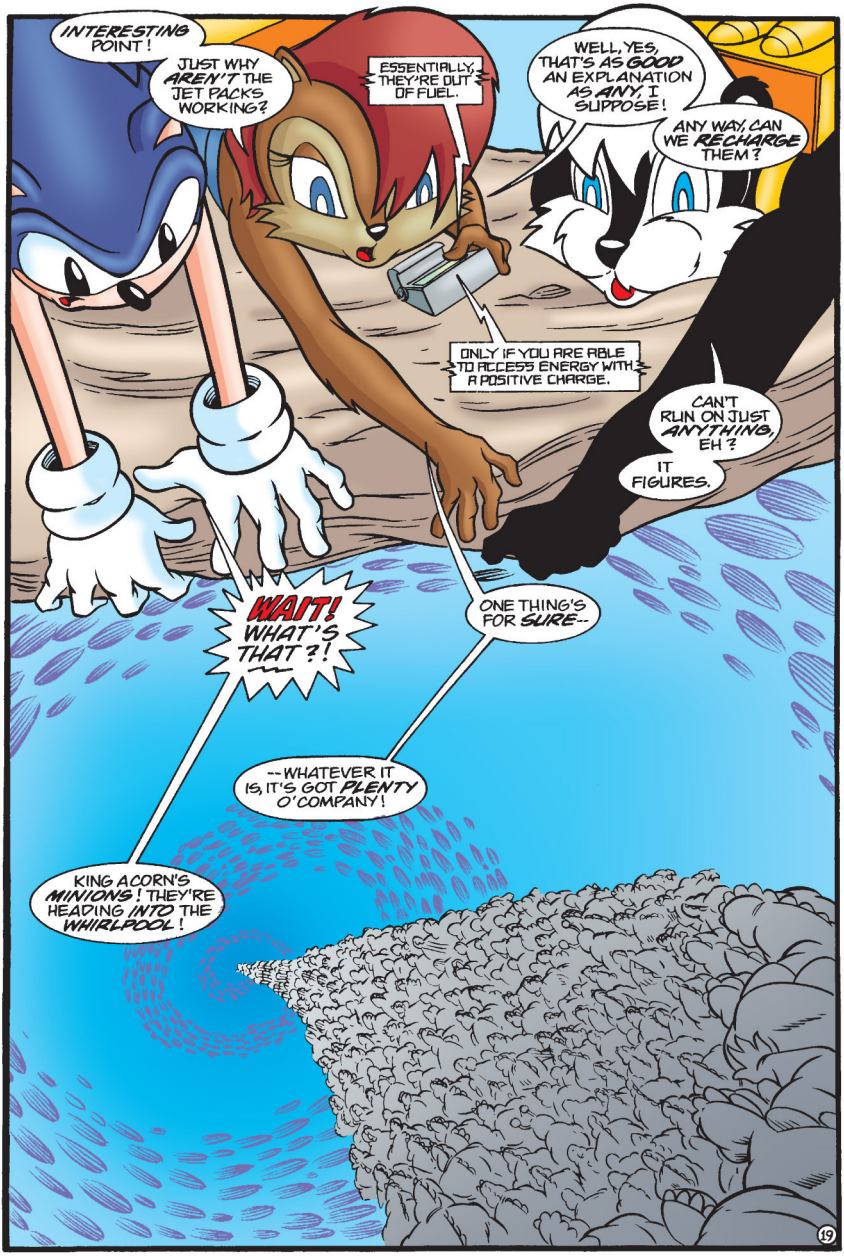
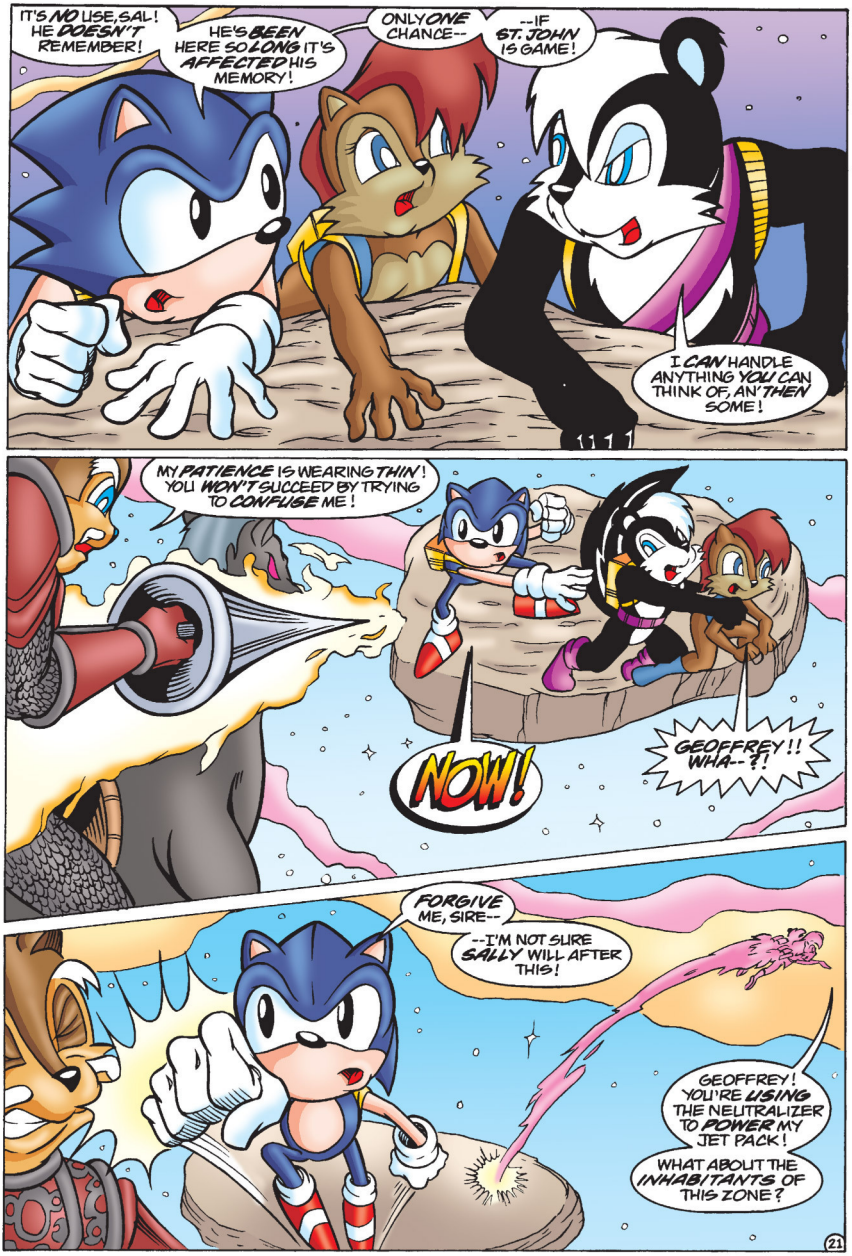
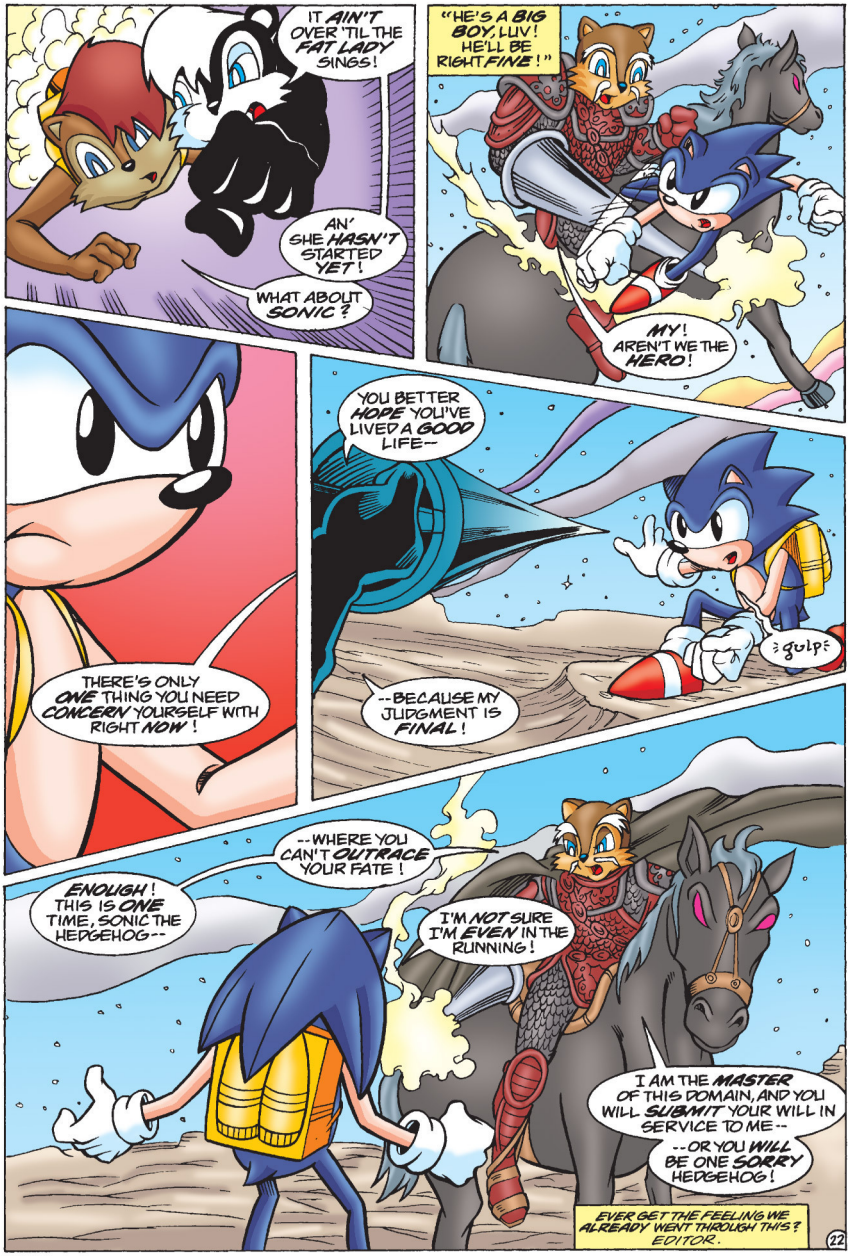
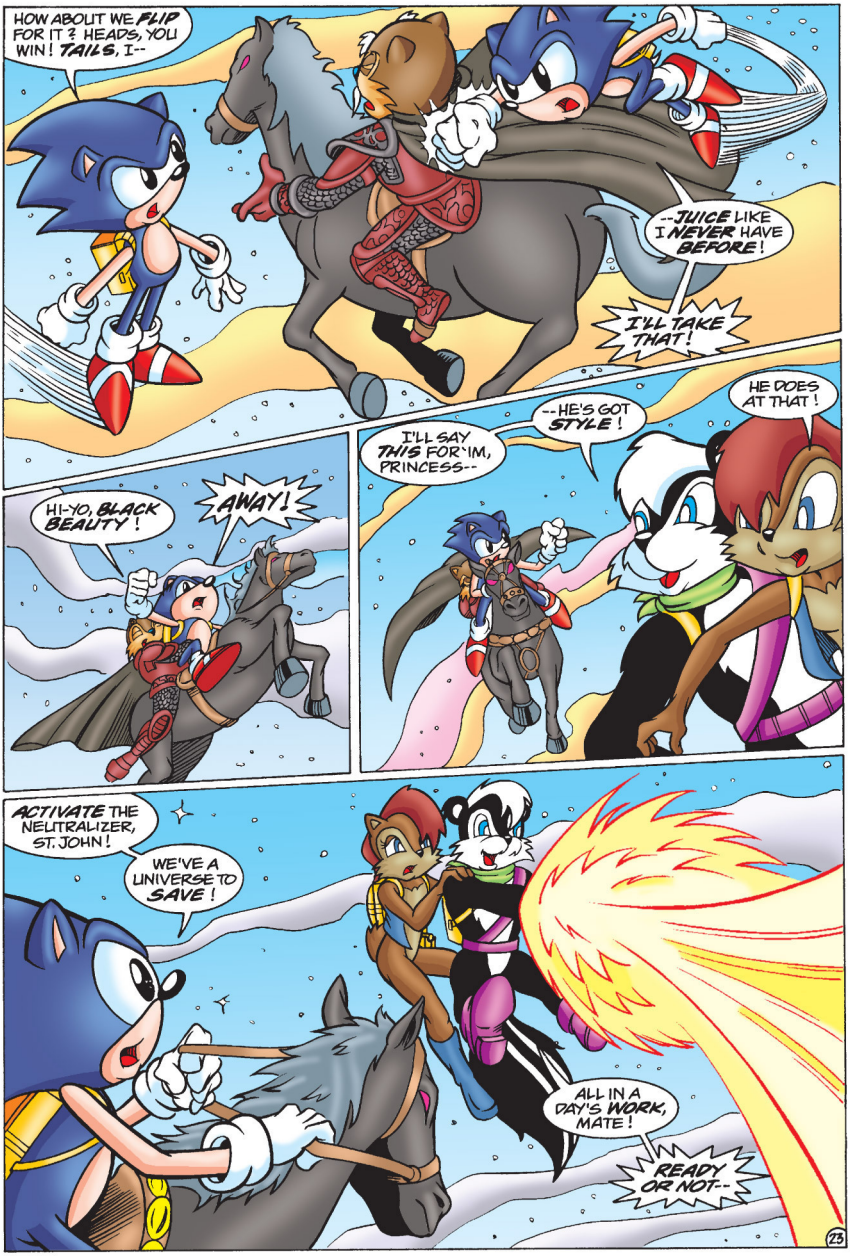

SALLY! ST. JOHN!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
ARE YOU ALRIGHT, MATE? YOU'VE BEEN HERE WITH US! GET WITH THE PROGRAM!
THE ZONE IS COLLAPSING, SONIC--
--AND I'M AFRAID THERE ISN'T A THING WE CAN DO TO STOP IT!
WITH US BEING DRAWN INTO THAT COSMIC WHIRLPOOL--
--WE'LL BE LUCKY TO SAVE OURSELVES, LET ALONE MY FATHER!
THERE'S GOTTA BE A WAY OUT OF THIS FOR EVERYONE!
MAYBE NICOLE HAS A SUGGESTION?
WELL, NICOLE, DO YOU?
NICOLE?
WELL?
I'M PROCESSING...
TRY PRAYER.
THIS IS JUST DINKLIM!
SCREWY MACHINE!
IF ONLY OUR JET PACKS WORKED!

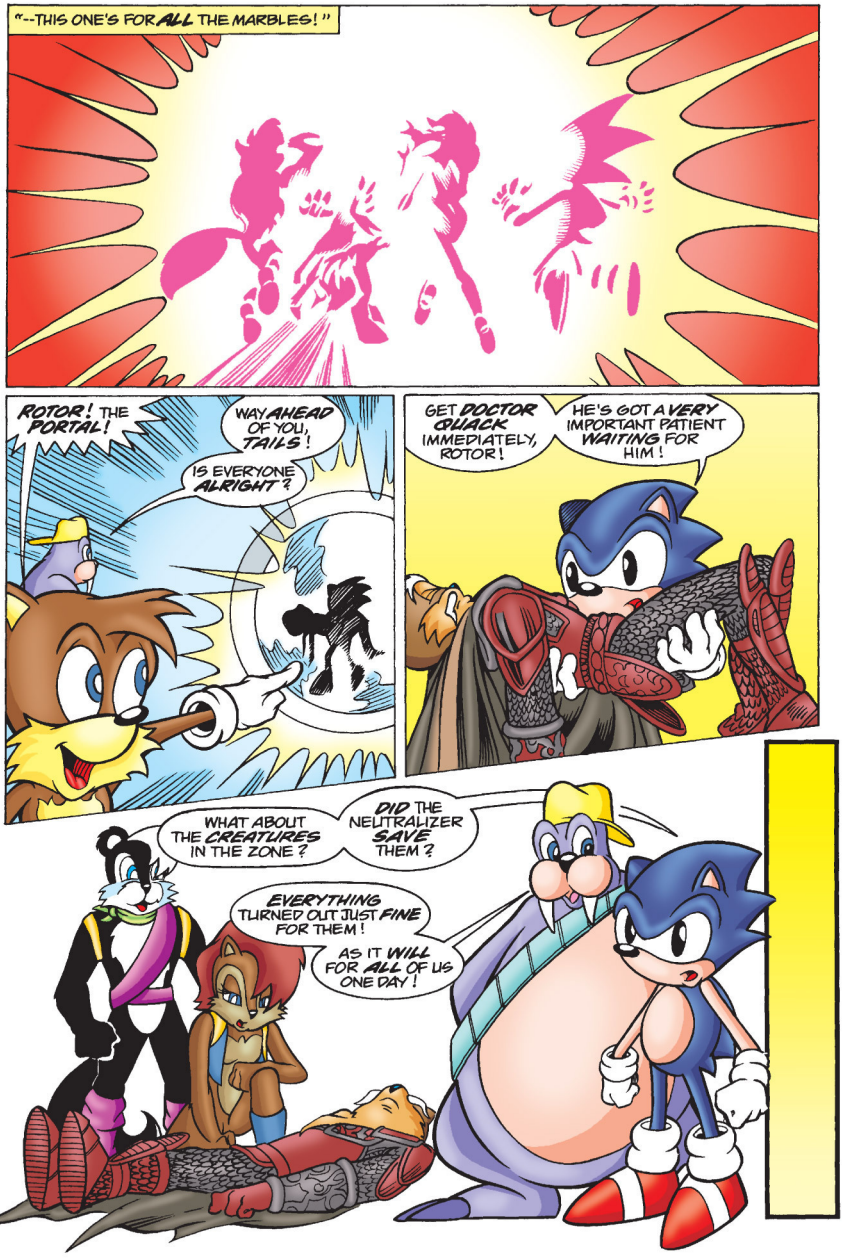

INTERESTING POINT!
JUST WHY AREN'T THE JET PACKS WORKING?
ESSENTIALLY, THEY'RE OUT OF FUEL.
WELL, YES, THAT'S AS GOOD AN EXPLANATION AS ANY, I SUPPOSE!
ANY WAY, CAN WE RECHARGE THEM?
ONLY IF YOU ARE ABLE TO ACCESS ENERGY WITH A POSITIVE CHARGE.
CAN'T RUN ON JUST ANYTHING, EH?
IT FIGURES.
WAIT! WHAT'S THAT?!
ONE THING'S FOR SURE--
--WHATEVER IT IS, IT'S GOT PLENTY O'COMPANY!
KING ACORN'S MINIONS! THEY'RE HEADING INTO THE WHIRLPOOL!

I JUST THOUGHT OF SOMETHING, GUYS!
THE NEUTRALIZER IS A SOURCE OF POSITIVE ENERGY!
ISN'T THAT A GOOD ONE?!
WE HAVE A CHOICE BETWEEN GETTING US OUT OF HERE OR PRESERVING THE ZONE AND REMAINING HERE!
PERHAPS I CAN MAKE THE CHOICE FOR YOU!
GIVE YOUR DEVICE TO ME, AND I MAY LET YOU LIVE!
REFUSE, AND NO ONE GETS OUT OF HERE!
FATHER! WE HAVEN'T MUCH TIME!
STAND YOUR GROUND, ALL OF YOU!!
FATHER! DON'T YOU REMEMBER ME--
--YOUR DAUGHTER!
MY DAUGHTER?


IT'S NO USE, SAL! HE DOESN'T REMEMBER!
HE'S BEEN HERE SO LONG IT'S AFFECTED HIS MEMORY!
ONLY ONE CHANCE--
--IF ST. JOHN IS GAME!
I CAN HANDLE ANYTHING YOU CAN THINK OF, AN' THEN SOME!
MY PATIENCE IS WEARING THIN! YOU WON'T SUCCEED BY TRYING TO CONFUSE ME!
NOW!
GEOFFREY!! WHA--?!
FORGIVE ME, SIRE--
--I'M NOT SURE SALLY WILL AFTER THIS!
GEOFFREY! YOU'RE USING THE NEUTRALIZER TO POWER MY JET PACK!
WHAT ABOUT THE INHABITANTS OF THIS ZONE?


IT AIN'T OVER 'TIL THE FAT LADY SINGS!
AN' SHE HASN'T STARTED YET!
WHAT ABOUT SONIC?
"HE'S A BIG BOY, LUV! HE'LL BE RIGHT FINE!"
MY! AREN'T WE THE HERO!
YOU BETTER HOPE YOU'VE LIVED A GOOD LIFE--
gulp
--BECAUSE MY JUDGMENT IS FINAL!
THERE'S ONLY ONE THING YOU NEED CONCERN YOURSELF WITH RIGHT NOW!
--WHERE YOU CAN'T OUTRACE YOUR FATE!
ENOUGH! THIS IS ONE TIME, SONIC THE HEDGEHOG--
I'M NOT SURE I'M EVEN IN THE RUNNING!
I AM THE MASTER OF THIS DOMAIN, AND YOU WILL SUBMIT YOUR WILL IN SERVICE TO ME--
--OR YOU WILL BE ONE SORRY HEDGEHOG!
EVER GET THE FEELING WE ALREADY WENT THROUGH THIS? EDITOR.


HOW ABOUT WE FLIP FOR IT? HEADS, YOU WIN! TAILS, I--
--JUICE LIKE I NEVER HAVE BEFORE!
I'LL TAKE THAT!
HI-YO, BLACK BEAUTY!
AWAY!
I'LL SAY THIS FOR 'IM, PRINCESS--
--HE'S GOT STYLE!
HE DOES AT THAT!
ACTIVATE THE NEUTRALIZER, ST. JOHN!
WE'VE A UNIVERSE TO SAVE!
ALL IN A DAY'S WORK, MATE!
READY OR NOT--


"--THIS ONE'S FOR ALL THE MARBLES!"
ROTOR! THE PORTAL!
WAY AHEAD OF YOU, TAILS!
IS EVERYONE ALRIGHT?
GET DOCTOR QUACK IMMEDIATELY, ROTOR!
HE'S GOT A VERY IMPORTANT PATIENT WAITING FOR HIM!
WHAT ABOUT THE CREATURES IN THE ZONE?
DID THE NEUTRALIZER SAVE THEM?
EVERYTHING TURNED OUT JUST FINE FOR THEM!
AS IT WILL FOR ALL OF US ONE DAY!